

Please amend the present application as follows (the amendments are shown in the marked-up version attached hereto as Appendix A (deletions bracketed; insertions underlined)):

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 19 and 23 have been amended to read as follows:

C1 1. A non-dripping, flame retardant, fluoropolymeric composition comprising:

- (a) a fluoropolymeric base polymer; and
- (b) a nanoclay additive;

said composition having a limiting oxygen index in the range of 45% to 65%.

C2 19. A method for preparing an exfoliated thermoplastic elastomer blend of a fluoropolymer and a nanocomposite, said blend having a limiting oxygen index in the range of 45% to 65%, comprising dynamically mixing said fluoropolymer and said nanocomposite in a ratio of from about 99:1 to about 50:50 parts by weight, respectively.

C3 23. A non-dripping, flame retardant fluoropolymeric composition comprising:

- (a) PVDF resin; and
- (b) a nanoclay selected from the group consisting of synthetic silicate montmorillonites, natural layered silicate montmorillonites and a layered alumna-silicate;